

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for recognising a spoken identification sequence including one or more different types of identifiers, the spoken identification sequence having one of a plurality of possible predefined identifier type formats, the method including the steps of:

(a) maintaining a database of identification sequences having at least a first of said possible predefined identifier type formats;

(b) establishing a connection between a caller and a voice recognition system operatively connected to the at least one database;

(c) selecting, by the voice recognition system, one of said plurality of possible predefined identifier type formats, based on a format selection made by the caller using the connection; and

(d) if the voice recognition system determines that the selected identifier type format corresponds to said first identifier type format, providing said spoken identification sequence to the voice recognition system for analysis according to the first identifier type format.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein one type of identifier is a letter.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein another type of identifier is a number.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the spoken identification sequence comprises an alpha numeric sequence of characters.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the identification sequence is a vehicle license plate number.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the predefined identifier type formal comprises ,a combination of a series of one or more letters and a series of one or more numbers defining the vehicle license plate number.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, the method further including the step of:

the caller entering information via a telephone keypad in response to prompts for information from an interactive voice response system.

8. (Previously Presented) A method for purchasing a pass for a toll road network, including the steps of:

recognizing a spoken identification sequence according to claim 1; and
purchasing the pass for use in conjunction with a vehicle associated with the spoken identification sequence.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for recognising a spoken identification sequence including one or more different types of identifiers, the spoke identification sequence having one of a plurality of possible predefined identifier type formats, the method including the steps of:

(a) maintaining at least one database of identification sequences having at least a first of said possible predefined identifier type formats;

(b) selecting, by the voice recognition system, one of said plurality of possible predefined identifier type formats, based on a format selection made by the caller using the connection;

(c) determining that the selected identifier type format corresponds to one of the predefined identifier type formats, said determination being preformed by a voice recognition system; and

(d) if the voice recognition system determines that the selected identifier type format corresponds to one of said predefined identifier type formats, providing said spoken identification sequence to the voice recognition system for analysis according to the predefined identifier type format.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the identification sequence is a vehicle license plate number.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, the method further including:

providing user access to a further database containing details of multiple registered license plate numbers.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein user access to said further database is facilitated upon providing a user identifier.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, the method further including:

providing user access to one or more accounts maintained for each registered license plate number.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, the method further including:

enabling user modification of selected accounts and/or registered license plate numbers.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, the method further including:

the user establishing a connection to a voice recognition system connected to the at least one database, and providing a spoken identification sequence which is recognised as corresponding to one of the predefined identifier type formats.

16. (Currently Amended) An information processing system for recognising a spoken identification sequence including one or more different types of identifiers, the spoken identification sequence having one of a plurality of possible predefined identifier type formats, the system including:

at least one database of identification sequences having at least a first of said possible predefined identifier type formats; and

a voice recognition system operatively connected to the at least one database and including a processing unit and associated memory means for storing computer program code for causing the processing unit to perform the steps of:

receiving one of said plurality of possible predefined identifier type formats selected by a caller connected to the voice recognition system; and

if the voice recognition system determines that the selected identifier type format corresponds to said first identifier type format, analysing said spoken identification sequence provided to the voice recognition system by the caller according to the first identifier type format.

17. (Currently Amended) A voice recognition system forming part of an information processing system for recognising a spoken identification sequence including one or more different types of identifiers, the spoken identification sequence having one of a plurality of possible predefined identifier type formats, the system including:

at least one database of identification sequences having at least a first of said possible predefined identifier type formats; and

wherein the voice recognition system is operatively connectable to the at least one database and includes a processing unit and associated memory means for storing computer program code for causing the processing unit to perform the steps of:

receiving one of said plurality of possible predefined identifier type formats selected by a caller connected to the voice recognition system; and

if the voice recognition system determines that the selected identifier type format corresponds to said first identifier type format, analysing said spoken identification sequence provided to the voice recognition system by the caller according to the first identifier type format.

18. (Previously Presented) The voice recognition system of claim 17 further comprising a computer program including computer program code, the computer program code causing the processing unit to perform the steps of receiving one of said possible predefined identifier type formats selected by a caller and analyzing said spoken identification sequence provided to the voice recognition system by the caller according to the first identifier type format.